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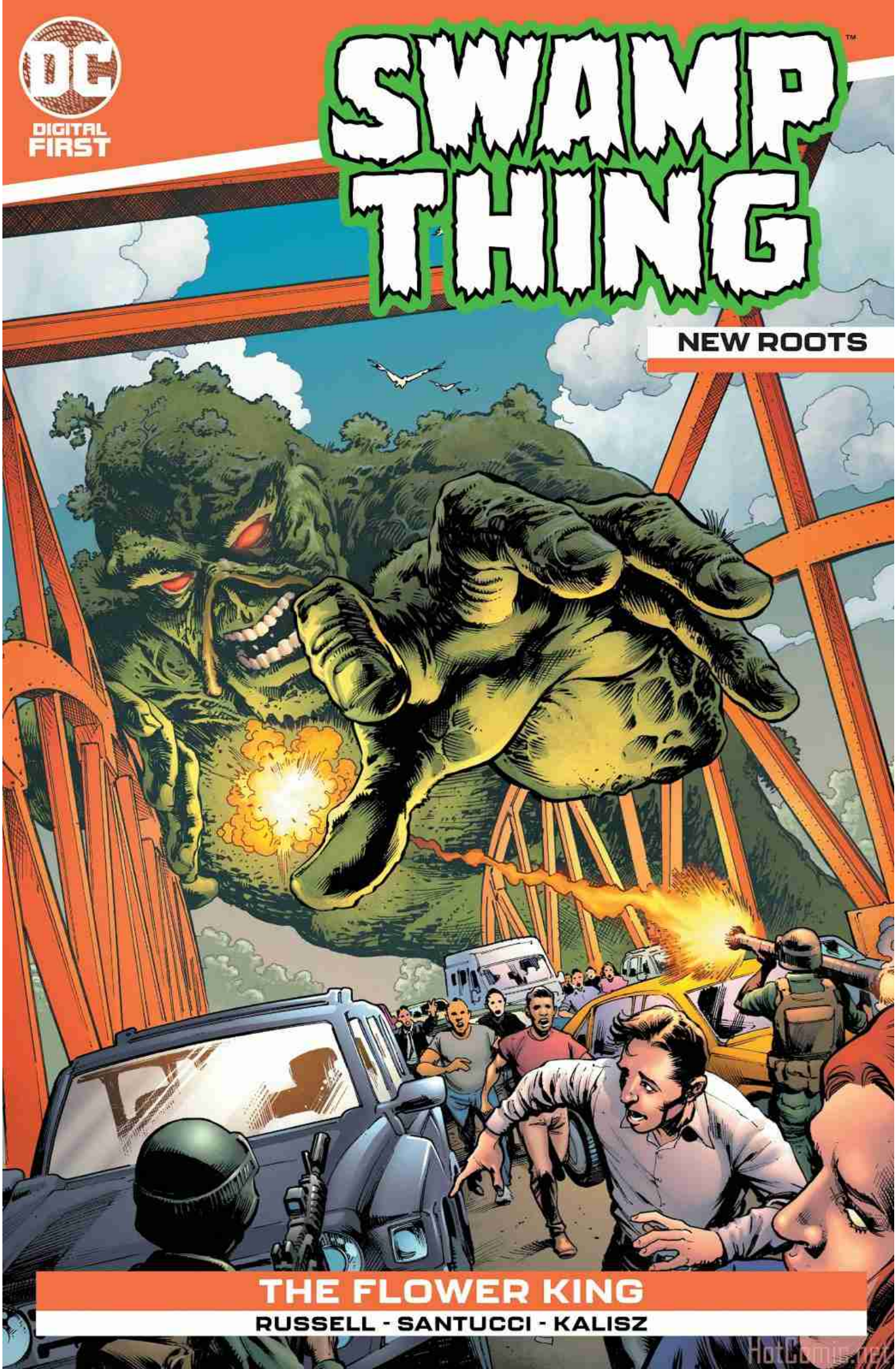
# SWAMP THING

## NEW ROOTS



## THE FLOWER KING

RUSSELL - SANTUCCI - KALISZ

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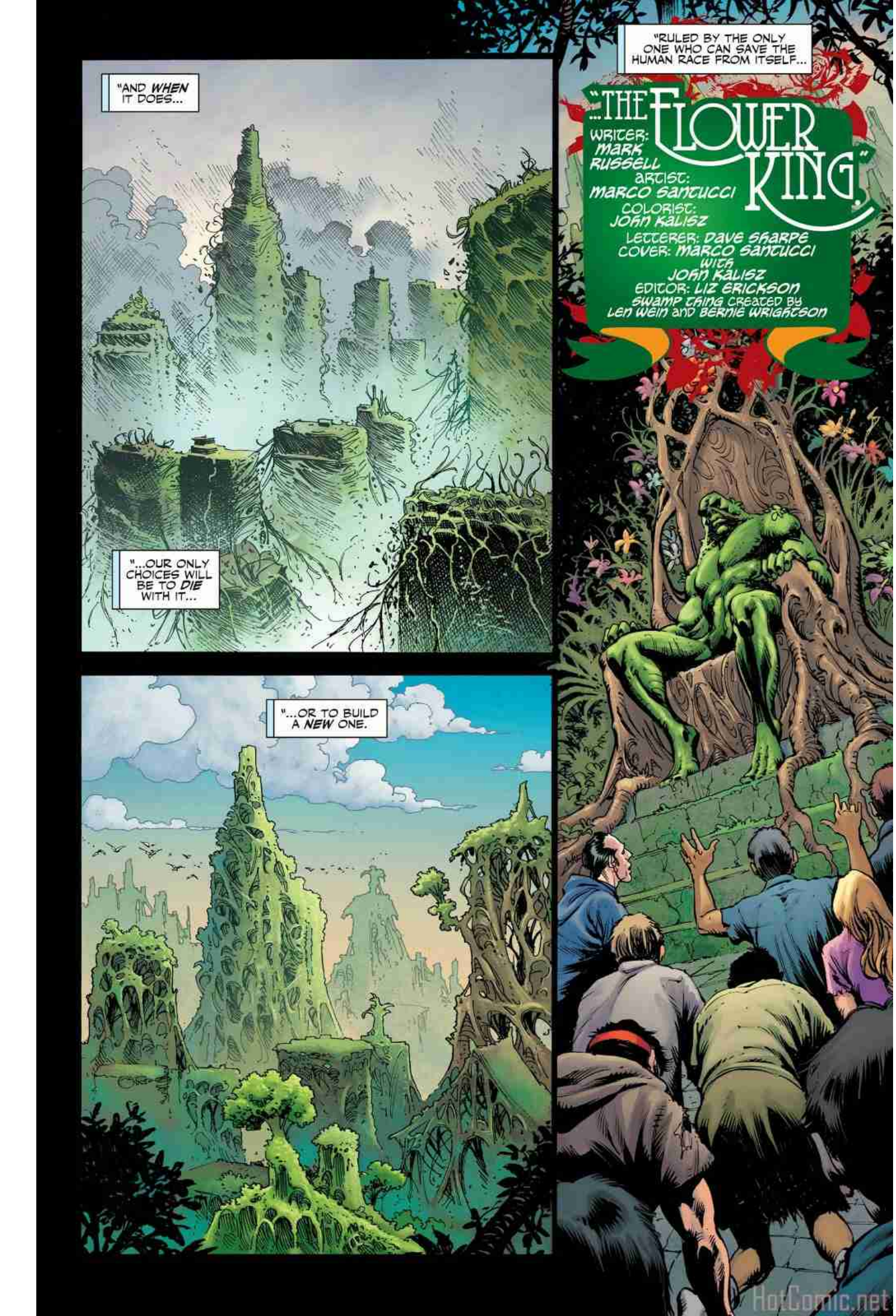
"THE PLANTS WERE HERE LONG BEFORE US.
FLRRTH...
"AND THEY'LL BE HERE LONG AFTER WE'RE GONE.
"THEY ARE PATIENT AND RESILIENT IN A WAY WE CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE. ONLY BY LEARNING WHAT PLANTS HAVE TO TEACH US CAN WE SURVIVE THE CALAMITY THAT IS OURSELVES.
"SOONER OR LATER, OUR WORLD WILL COME TO AN END."
CCRRRUMBLE


"AND WHEN IT DOES...
"...OUR ONLY CHOICES WILL BE TO DIE WITH IT...
"...OR TO BUILD A NEW ONE.
"RULED BY THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THE HUMAN RACE FROM ITSELF...
..."THE FLOWER KING."
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SWAMP THING CREATED BY LEN WEIN AND BERNIE WRIGHTSON
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SOUNDS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
AND OF COURSE, WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE TO HELP YOU!
YOU'RE A MURDERER.
YOUR FOLLOWERS ARE MURDERERS.
YOUR FOLLOWERS, YOU MEAN. WE FOLLOW YOU.
VWHEEEE!
"AND LET'S BE HONEST, SHALL WE? WE'RE ALL MURDERERS."
BRING 'IM IN, RANDY!
TINK! TONK!
"IT'S OUR NATURE.
I WORK AT SUNDERLAND. WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE UP TO AT THIS VERY MOMENT?
I...
THE QUESTION IS... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME ANY OF THIS.
FIXING YOU IS NOT MY PROBLEM.
LEAVE... AND NEVER COME BACK.

WITH EACH PASSING DAY, I REMEMBER LESS OF WHAT IT WAS TO BE HUMAN.
AND WONDER MORE...
...WHY I SHOULD CARE.
LET THEM DESTROY IT ALL, AND THEMSELVES WITH IT.
LET THE WORLD START OVER AGAIN WITHOUT THEM.
THIS PLANET COULD USE SOME PEACE AND QUIET FOR A CHANGE.
THERE HE IS!
WHOA, LOOK! IT'S SWAMP THING! SWAMP THING, OVER HERE!

"FIRST HE DESTROYS OUR FARMS...
SUNDERLAND FOODS
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
...THEN OUR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS...AND THEN SHRUBBY, OR WHATEVER THEY'RE CALLING HIM THESE DAYS...DESTROYS MY HOUSE!
THE WAR WITH THE SWAMP MONSTER HAS BEEN A DISASTER. AND I'M GETTING NO HELP FROM THE FEDS ON THIS.
FOR THE LOVE OF TERRYCLOTH... SOMEBODY GIVE ME SOME GOOD NEWS!
SIR?
ANYONE EXCEPT YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT US INTO THIS MESS.
THAT'S JUST IT, SIR..
"...WE'VE HAD A BREAKTHROUGH."

THERE'S NO SAVING THEM. I SEE THAT NOW. PERHAPS THERE NEVER WAS.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME IN THIS WORLD.
MAYBE AFTER THEY'RE GONE, I'LL CREATE A GALLERY...A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE HUMAN RACE.
COMMEMORATING HUMAN BEINGS...
...JUST AS I REMEMBER THEM.
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=SIGH= CULTS.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY PROPOSAL?
YES, AND I HAVE DECIDED TO LET THIS WORLD GO TO *HELL*. SEEMS TO BE WHERE IT WANTS TO GO ANYWAY.
PERHAPS. BUT BEFORE WE ALL MAKE THE TRIP, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO *KNOW*.
"YOU REMEMBER HOW SUNDERLAND WAS TRYING TO *CAPTURE* YOU? TO *ENSLAVE* YOU? WELL, GUESS WHAT?"
HELL ON CRACKERS, SALLY!
WE'VE *DONE* IT, SIR.
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"THEY ALREADY HAVE..."
WE'VE SUCCESSFULLY SPLICED THE DNA OF THE SWAMP THING. WITHIN A YEAR, ALL OUR CROPS WILL BE SELF-HARVESTING.
...OR AT LEAST YOUR DNA.
CHILDREN. I HAVE... CHILDREN.
TWO, TO BE EXACT. BUT SOON THERE WILL BE MILLIONS.
EACH ONE A SLAVE. EACH CONDEMNED TO SERVE AND DIE IN A WORLD YOU REFUSED TO RULE.

OVER HERE! SWAMP BOY! LOOK AT ME!
WHOA!
FLOOOSHH
I CAN FEEL MY POWER GROWING WITH EACH STEP.
BUT IT'S NOT MY POWER THAT'S GROWN...
SCREEECH!
HONK! HONK!
...MERELY MY WILL TO USE IT.
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I WAS STUNNED AT HOW EASY IT ALL WAS. HOW UNPREPARED THEY WERE FOR ME.
EVERYTHING IN THEIR WORLD IS POWERED BY OIL. OIL CONTAINING FOSSILIZED ALGAE.
WHICH I COULD TURN INTO A SLUDGE.
STOPPING THEM IS NO MORE DIFFICULT THAN WAVING A FLY AWAY FROM YOUR FACE.
AS WITH MOST THINGS, THE HARD PART IS SIMPLY DECIDING TO DO IT.
OF COURSE, THE PROBLEM WITH FLIES...
...IS THAT THEY KEEP COMING BACK.
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THEY WERE HOLDING MY CHILDREN. WHAT DID THEY EXPECT? THAT A PLANT WOULD NOT FEEL?
KABOOM!
THAT I WOULD NOT FIGHT BACK?!
SUNDERLAND IS BUT A SYMPTOM OF THE DISEASE RAVAGING THIS WORLD...
RAAAAGH!
KARRUNCH!
MICHAEL!
...ITS APATHY TOWARD ITS OWN DESTRUCTION.
PERHAPS APATHY IS NOT THE CAUSE OF OUR DESTRUCTION.
BUT THE MOMENT AT WHICH WE'VE BEEN DESTROYED.

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MOMMY!
IF THERE IS SOMETHING IN THIS WORLD WORTH SAVING...
...IT IS THIS.
FOR WHAT IS A CHILD...
MOMMY...
...BUT PROOF THAT YOU HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT AM I DOING?
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I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT... SALLY QUAID!
WELCOME SUNDERLAND INVESTORS!
I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT ALL THE GREAT THINGS WE'RE DOING AT SUNDERLAND... ABOUT HOW WE'RE ABOUT TO REVOLUTIONIZE FOOD PRODUCTION FOR A HUNGRY PLANET...
...BUT I'D RATHER SHOW YOU.
GASP!
I LIKE TO CALL THEM LEIF AND FLORA!
WITHIN A YEAR... FARMS, PICKERS, WILL ALL BE A THING OF THE PAST. WELCOME TO THE AGE OF MOBILE, SENTIENT, AND SELF-HARVESTING FOOD!
WOULD ANYONE LIKE AN APPLE?
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
IS THIS SAFE? I MEAN...ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS OR CONSEQUENCES TO THIS...YOU KNOW... SLAVE FOOD?
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YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE. IT'S MY TURN NOW.
STAY BACK! IT'S AN HERBICIDE GUN! I'M WARNING YOU!
I WARNED YOU!
FZHOOOTH!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D HELD MY CHILD IN MY ARMS.
AND IT WAS JUST LONG ENOUGH TO SAY GOODBYE.
PLEASE! I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
I CAME HERE NOT TO KILL. BUT TO SPEAK.
NOT TO YOU AS SHAREHOLDERS... AS BUSINESSPEOPLE... BUT AS FELLOW FATHERS AND MOTHERS.
AS PEOPLE NOT JUST WITH SOMETHING TO GAIN.
BUT EVERYTHING TO LOSE.
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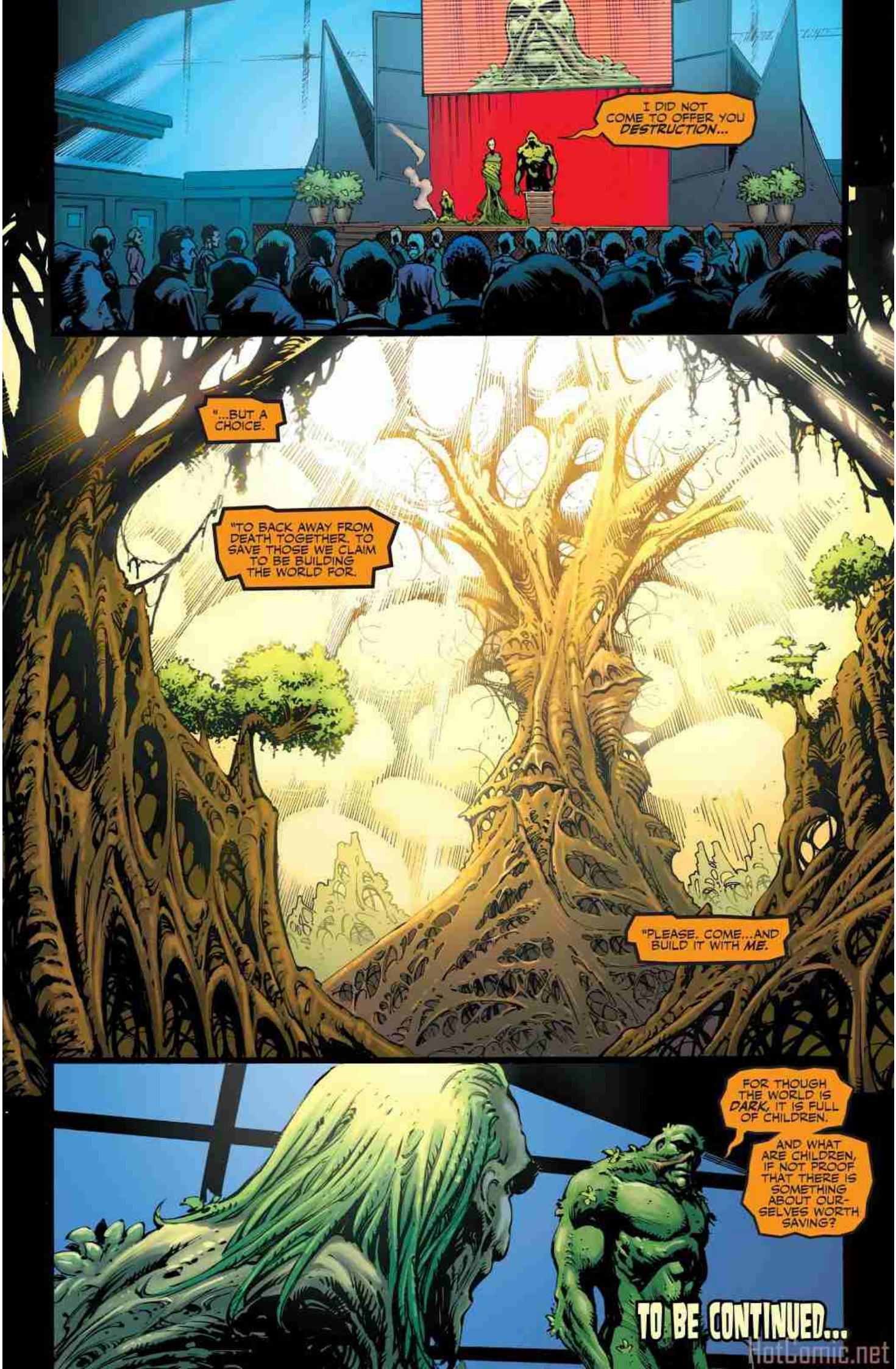
I DID NOT COME TO OFFER YOU DESTRUCTION...
"...BUT A CHOICE.
"TO BACK AWAY FROM DEATH TOGETHER. TO SAVE THOSE WE CLAIM TO BE BUILDING THE WORLD FOR.
"PLEASE. COME...AND BUILD IT WITH ME.
FOR THOUGH THE WORLD IS DARK, IT IS FULL OF CHILDREN.
AND WHAT ARE CHILDREN, IF NOT PROOF THAT THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT OURSELVES WORTH SAVING?
TO BE CONTINUED...
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# SON OF ULTRON